

The History of Chocolate

Find out how chocolate became America's favorite candy treat

Vocabulary

delectable: delicious

colonies: areas settled and controlled by people from another country, as Europeans settled in the Americas

immigrants: people who move to a new country to live there

flocked: gathered in a crowd; went in large numbers

captivated: delighted, fascinated, charmed

It all started with a scent—sweet and delicious.

In 1893, Milton Hershey was visiting a big fair in Chicago. The fair included an exhibit of amazing new inventions from around the world.

The moment Hershey entered the exhibit hall, he noticed a **delectable** aroma. In a rear corner, workers from a German company were making chocolate.

Hershey watched, fascinated, as the men's machinery transformed bitter cocoa beans into sweet chocolate candies.

Hershey was already a leading candy maker, creator of the largest caramel factory in America—but now he became convinced that the future of his business would be chocolate.

Chocolate History

Inside a cacao fruit are bitter little seeds. Around 400 B.C., Indians living in today's Mexico discovered that the seeds could be roasted,

ground, and eaten.

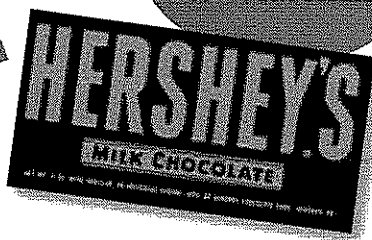
By the year 400 A.D., Maya Indians had created a chocolate drink by combining cocoa powder with water and spices. Over the centuries, chocolate beverages spread to Europe and the American **colonies**.

Treat Trends

Milton Hershey built his caramel company in the 1880s. Back then, candy in the United States was expensive and difficult to produce—and the quality wasn't consistently high.

America's most popular treats at that time were "penny candies"—peppermints, lemon drops, and other small sweets sold from large jars. Recipes for

Left: Cacao pods. When the cacao seeds are roasted, ground, and mixed with other ingredients, the result is . . . chocolate!



many of these sweets had come from European **immigrants**.

Italians were known for making hard candies, like jawbreakers. Germans specialized in confections of almond paste and spun sugar.

America's earliest candy makers worked in tiny home kitchens—but by 1893, dozens of large companies, like Hershey's, had sprung up around the country.



Milton Hershey

Hershey, Pennsylvania, now has a popular amusement park as well as a chocolate factory.



Made in the U.S.A.

At the fair in Chicago, Hershey purchased chocolate-making equipment, which he sent to his factory in Pennsylvania. Then he hired two chocolate makers. Soon the company was manufacturing chocolate candies in more than 100 shapes.

Still, Hershey wasn't satisfied. His products were delicious, but he wanted to create a lighter, creamier chocolate.

The trick, he knew, was to add milk. Swiss companies were producing milk chocolate, but their recipes were secrets. To sell milk chocolate, Hershey would first have to formulate a recipe.

Marvelous Milk

Devising a method for mixing chocolate with milk was extremely difficult. Hershey's team worked 16 hours a day for months.

Milk, which is 90 percent water, and cocoa butter, which is mostly oil, don't blend together easily. Hershey's milk chocolate

experiments frequently resulted in oily messes.

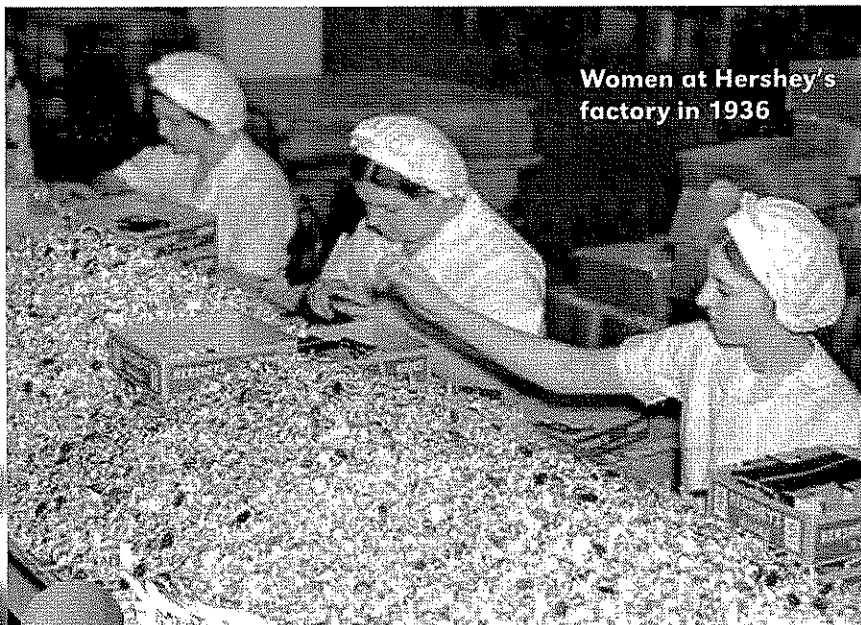
But eventually, in 1900, Hershey succeeded. He sold his caramel business and purchased 1,200 acres of land in Pennsylvania. There, he established the world's largest chocolate factory. He also built a town, named Hershey, for his employees and their families.

By 1915, Hershey's milk chocolate bars were America's No. 1 candy.

Visitors **flocked** to Hershey, Pennsylvania. They admired its tidy streets, its immense factory, and the chocolaty scent that pervaded the air—the same heavenly aroma that had **captivated** Milton Hershey years earlier.

—Lauren Tarshis

Women at Hershey's factory in 1936



Name: _____

SKILL:

Reading-
Comprehension
Test Prep

USE WITH:

"The History of
Chocolate," p. 14

Test Your Knowledge



Answer these questions about "The History of Chocolate." Fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question.

1. This article is mainly about _____.
(A) how caramel is made
(B) the history of Hershey's chocolate
(C) penny candies
(D) uses for milk
2. What kind of factory did Milton Hershey start?
(A) chocolate
(B) caramel
(C) neither
(D) both
3. The story says that Maya Indians created _____.
(A) Reese's Pieces
(B) lollipops
(C) a chocolate drink
(D) chocolate chips
4. You can tell that Hershey liked the machines he saw at the fair because _____.
(A) he broke them
(B) he stole them
(C) he bought them
(D) he was in Chicago
5. Which happened first?
(A) Hershey made milk chocolate.
(B) Hershey went to the fair in Chicago.
(C) Hershey created a caramel company.
(D) Hershey built a town.
6. Which statement is an opinion?
(A) Hershey built a town.
(B) Caramel is better than chocolate.
(C) Chocolate is made from cacao seeds.
(D) Hershey built a factory.
7. In the sentence "Visitors flocked to Hershey, Pennsylvania," the word **visitors** is _____.
(A) a noun
(B) a verb
(C) an adjective
(D) an adverb
8. Which is the best summary of the section "Marvelous Milk"?
(A) Milk is expensive.
(B) Milk tastes good.
(C) Milk can make chocolate creamy.
(D) Milk comes from cows.
9. Why did Hershey build a town?
(A) so that workers could live near the factory
(B) so that his family could live nearby
(C) so that he could have 500 houses
(D) because building towns was his job
10. The author's purpose for writing this article was probably to _____.
(A) persuade readers to eat caramel
(B) entertain readers with a true story
(C) inform readers of the rules for selling chocolate
(D) instruct readers on how to build a town

